

**CLAIMS**

1. (Previously Presented) A method for managing time-sensitive packetized data streams at a receiver, comprising:
  - receiving a time-sensitive packet of a data stream;
  - comparing an energy level of a payload signal of the packet to an energy level of a payload signal of a previous packet; and
  - either dropping or playing the packet based on the comparison.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
  - storing the packet in a buffer; and
  - wherein either dropping or playing the packet based on the comparison comprises either dropping or playing the packet based on the comparison and a fullness of the buffer.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 2, further comprising determining whether to insert a filler packet based on the comparison and the fullness of the buffer.
4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the time-sensitive packet comprises a real-time packet.
5. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the payload signal is a voice signal.
6. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~Claim 1~~Claim 1,  
further comprising analyzing the energy level of the payload signal for the comparison of the energy level of a payload signal of the packet to an energy level of a payload signal of a previous packet; and  
wherein analyzing the energy level of the payload signal of the packet comprises:
  - determining a short term average energy of the payload signal;
  - determining a noise floor estimate; and
  - comparing the short term average energy and the noise floor estimate.

7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Original) The method of Claim 3, wherein determining whether to insert the filler packet comprises:
  - determining if an underrun condition exists in the buffer; and
  - determining if a previous packet can be repeated or if a new packet needs to be inserted.
10. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 2, further comprising determining whether an overflow condition exists in the buffer.
11. (Previously Presented) A set of logic encoded in media for managing time-sensitive packetized data streams at a receiver, the logic, when executed by a computer, operable to:
  - receive a time-sensitive packet of a data stream;
  - compare an energy level of a payload signal of the packet to an energy level of a payload signal of a previous packet; and
  - either drop or play the packet based on the comparison.
12. (Currently Amended) The logic of Claim 11, further operable to:
  - store the packet in a buffer; and
  - wherein logic operable to either drop or play the packet based on the comparison comprises logic operable to either drop or play the packet based on the comparison and a fullness of the buffer.
13. (Previously Presented) The logic of Claim 12, further operable to determine whether to insert a filler packet based on the comparison and the fullness of the buffer.
14. (Original) The logic of Claim 11, wherein the time-sensitive packet comprises a real-time packet.

15. (Original) The logic of Claim 11, wherein the payload signal is a voice signal.

16. (Currently Amended) The logic of Claim 11, wherein ~~the logic is further operable to:~~

the logic is further operable to analyze the energy level of the payload signal for the comparison of the energy level of a payload signal of the packet to an energy level of a payload signal of a previous packet; and

wherein logic operable to analyze the energy level of the payload signal comprises logic operable to:

determine a short term average energy of the payload signal;  
determine a noise floor estimate; and  
compare the short term average energy and the noise floor estimate.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Original) The logic of Claim 13, wherein the logic is further operable to:  
determine if an underrun condition exists in the buffer; and  
determine if a previous packet can be repeated or if a new packet needs to be inserted.

20. (Previously Presented) The logic of Claim 12, wherein the logic is further operable to determine whether an overflow condition exists in the buffer.

21. (Previously Presented) A system for managing time-sensitive packetized data streams at a receiver, comprising:

means for receiving a packet of a data stream;  
means for comparing an energy level of a payload signal of the packet to an energy level of a payload signal of a previous packet; and  
means for either dropping or playing the packet based on the comparison.

22. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 21, further comprising:  
means for storing the packet in a buffer; and  
means for either dropping or playing the packet based on the comparison  
comprises means for either dropping or playing the packet based on the comparison  
and a fullness of the buffer.

23. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 22, further comprising means for  
determining whether to insert a filler packet based on the comparison and the fullness of the  
buffer.

24. (Original) The system of Claim 21, wherein the time-sensitive packet  
comprises a real-time packet.

25. (Original) The system of Claim 21, wherein the payload signal is a voice  
signal.

26. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 21, ~~further comprising:~~  
further comprising means for analyzing the energy level of the payload signal for the  
comparison of the energy level of a payload signal of the packet to an energy level of a payload  
signal of a previous packet; and  
wherein means for analyzing the energy level of the payload signal of the packet  
comprises:

means for determining a short term average energy of the payload signal;  
means for determining a noise floor estimate; and  
means for comparing the short term average energy and the noise floor estimate.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Canceled)

29. (Original) The system of Claim 23, wherein means for determining whether to insert the filler packet comprises:

means for determining if an underrun condition exists in the buffer; and

means for determining if a previous packet can be repeated or if a new packet needs to be inserted.

30. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 22, wherein means for determining whether to drop the packet comprises means for determining whether an overflow condition exists in the buffer.

31. (Canceled)

32. (Canceled)

33. (Canceled)

34. (Canceled)